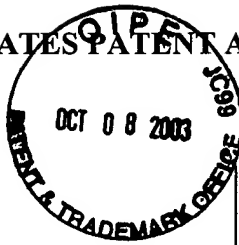


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Mark S. ABAD, *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/615,606

Filed: July 13, 2000

Title: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with Plants**

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Michael L. BORIN

Atty. Docket: 16517.284

Confirmation 7322
No.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Non-Fee-Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 15, 2003 (Paper Number 13)

("Office Action"), Applicants submit the following amendment and remarks.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, authorization is hereby given in the accompanying transmittal letter.